

WHY LABEL GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOOD?

We have a right to know important information about the food we eat and feed our families – such as sugar and sodium levels, whether flavors are natural or artificial, and if fish is wild or farm-raised. We should also have the right to choose whether we want to buy and eat genetically engineered food. American food companies already label genetically engineered foods for consumers in 64 other countries where labeling is required – they should label them for U.S. consumers too.

Because GMOs are proprietary products, no independent testing has been done to prove their safety – the only safety studies are conducted by the same agri-chemical companies who made them and earn billions from the sale of these products and the pesticides sprayed on them.

In fact, these are the same chemical corporations that made the herbicide Agent Orange and the insecticide DDT and wrongly claimed they were safe. We don't know the long-term health effects of genetically engineered food and we can't trust chemical corporations to tell us whether the food we're eating is safe.

IS GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOOD SAFE TO EAT?

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HOW DO GMOS AFFECT THE ENVIRONMENT?

The overwhelming majority of GMO crops are altered to withstand heavy doses of pesticides. As a consequence, higher levels of chemical pesticides are used on an increasing area of land. Yields have not improved with GMO crops; instead they have perpetuated soil toxicity and exhaustion, and the emergence of pesticide-resistant superweeds and superbugs.

Pesticide exposure causes farm-workers to suffer more chemical-related injuries and illnesses than any other workforce in the nation. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that 10,000-20,000 farm-workers are poisoned on the job every year due to pesticide exposure.



GE Salmon is spliced with genes from an eel-like organism to make it grow abnormally fast.

Natural Salmon:
Length: 37"
Weight: 2.8 lbs

GE Salmon:
Length: 24"
Weight: 6.5 lbs

BOTH FISH AT 18 MONTHS OLD

WHAT ARE GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOODS, OR GMOS?

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines a GMO, or genetically modified organism, as an organism whose DNA has been altered in a non-natural way. For example, plants are genetically engineered to tolerate high levels of pesticides, or even produce their own.

Unlike traditional crossbreeding, Genetic Engineering (GE) is an experimental biotechnology which splices together DNA from plants, animals, bacteria and viruses, fusing species that could not reproduce in nature. Despite the pesticide industry's promise that GMO crops would provide increased nutrition, larger yields and drought resistance, none of those benefits have materialized. Instead, there is an increasing body of evidence linking GMOs, along with the pesticides sprayed on them, to a wide array of environmental and health concerns.

WILL LABELING INCREASE FOOD PRICES?

Labeling genetically engineered foods will cost consumers less than one penny a day. This data comes from a Portland-based ECHO Northwest study which looked at both international and domestic research.



MEASURE 92 BENEFITS FAMILY FARMERS ACROSS OREGON

Measure 92 is carefully written to protect farmers and includes specific protections that guarantee farmers cannot be sued under the new law. Oregon family farmers support labeling genetically engineered food because labeling provides a clear way for consumers to differentiate traditionally-grown Oregon crops from crops genetically engineered by big agri-chemical business.

THE POCKET GUIDE TO LABELING GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOOD IN OREGON 2014



STAND UP FOR YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW IF OUR FOOD IS GENETICALLY ENGINEERED!

64 OTHER COUNTRIES ALREADY LABEL GMO FOODS



64 other countries, including all 28 countries in the European Union, Australia, and Japan require labeling genetically engineered foods. Labeling did not increase food costs for consumers in those countries. If American food companies can provide this information to people in our countries without increasing costs, they can do the same for us.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED



The Oregon Right to Know campaign is a grassroots, volunteer-driven effort that has supporters throughout the state of Oregon. Voters from all walks of life support Oregon Right to Know including: farmers, tribes, moms, educators, doctors, consumer advocates, food producers, scientists, small business owners, nutritionists, gardeners, birders, restaurateurs, child advocates, conservationists, and many more.

You can help us win labeling for genetically engineered foods! Support labeling and Oregon Right to Know by endorsing the campaign, contributing time, making a donation or both. Visit us at: www.oregonrighttoknow.org

WHO ENDORSES LABELING?

Measure 92 has been endorsed by dozens of respected health, consumer protection, and environmental organizations as well as leading food safety scientists:

- Oregon Nurses Association
- Physicians for Social Responsibility
- Friends of Family Farmers
- Oregon Rural Action
- United Farm Workers
- Consumers Union, publisher of Consumer Reports

"The bottom line is that genetic engineering is different than conventional breeding and raises potential safety issues so that foods derived from genetic engineering should be labeled!"
 -Michael Hansen, Senior Scientist, Consumers Union (publisher of Consumer Reports)

"The majority of genetically modified food is altered in a lab to increase tolerance to huge quantities of herbicides, or to produce its own pesticides that cannot be washed off. That's why we should label GMOs. The public has a right to know whether or not they are participating in the degradation of our natural environment."
 -Ray Seidler, EPA senior scientist (retired), who guided the first US government research on GMOs.

MONSANTO SUPPORTED GMO LABELING IN THE UK

"This is to inform you about the use of biotechnology in food. Monsanto fully supports UK food manufacturers and retailers in their introduction of these labels. We believe you should be aware of all the facts before making a purchase."